

uniform in their coloration, all agreeing with one of his eggs. His nest agreed with mine also in location. His set (3 eggs) measures  $18.54 \times 13.46$ ;  $18.80 \times 13.46$ ;  $18.54 \times 13.72$  mm. My set (4 eggs) measures  $18.54 \times 13.75$ ;  $18.25 \times 13.75$ ;  $18 \times 13.50$ ;  $18.75 \times 14$ . They look like a large edition of Field Sparrow eggs, but bear no resemblance to any other sparrow eggs in Ohio. In form they are oblong oval, the Grasshopper Sparrow's eggs are ovate squatty in shape with a polished white ground color.

Thus it will be seen that even though I did not capture the bird, there is no doubt whatever that I found *the first authentic nest and eggs of Henslow's Sparrow in Ohio*, and that Jones and Dawson were correct in their view that Henslow's Sparrow is a rare and irregular breeder in Ohio. To show the difference I have also added a photograph of the Grasshopper Sparrow's nest and eggs. Both pictures are simply loaned to 'The Auk,' and republication in any other work will be strictly dealt with according to law. I am under great obligations to Mr. J. Claire Wood for his kindness and help. And finally I have no doubt that Henslow's Sparrow will be found in many other places in Ohio by careful and competent observers.

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### GENERAL NOTES.

**Black Brant (*Branta nigricans*) in Massachusetts.**—As this bird is one of the very rarest in Massachusetts, and also is but a rare straggler on any part of the Atlantic coast, every instance of its being taken should be placed on record. I heard of one of these Brant being killed some years ago at Chatham, and upon further investigation found the bird in the collection of Mr. W. A. Carey of Boston. It was shot on April 15, 1902, and was one of a flock of seven Brant, and the only one killed. That spring there was an unusually small number of Brant at Chatham, and the party at the Monomoy Brant Club, the week that Mr. Carey was there, killed but very few birds. Curiously enough this was the only one that he himself shot. I supposed that it had been reported long ago and was much surprised to find that it had been overlooked, though a number of people knew of its existence. This is only the second record for the State, the other being one reported by C. B. Cory as killed in the spring of 1883, also at

Chatham.<sup>1</sup> There seem to be but very few records for the Atlantic coast. Two were shot in New Jersey on April 5, 1877<sup>2</sup>; one was shot by Augustus Dexter on Oneida Lake, N. Y., on October 30, 1891,<sup>3</sup> and only three have ever been reported from Long Island, all from Great South Bay. One was taken in 1840,<sup>4</sup> one in 1889,<sup>5</sup> and one in 1908.<sup>6</sup> As far as is known these are the only three from that locality. This then makes but seven records for the Atlantic coast, with a total of but eight birds.<sup>7</sup>—S. PRESCOTT FAY, *Boston, Mass.*

**Notes on *Chen caerulescens*, *Chen rossi*, and other Waterfowl in Louisiana.**—While Audubon's statement that "The Snow Goose in the grey state of its plumage is very abundant in winter, about the mouths of the Mississippi, as well as on all the muddy and grassy shores of the bays and inlets of the Gulf of Mexico as far as the Texas"<sup>8</sup> undoubtedly refers to *Chen caerulescens*, and, notwithstanding the fact of the occurrence of the species in large numbers in that region has been reiterated by Beyer<sup>9</sup> and McIlhenny,<sup>10</sup> the impression is general that the Blue Goose is a rare bird.

Professor Cooke speaks of it as "this rather rare goose,"<sup>11</sup> and Sanford says: "In its full spring plumage the Blue Goose is seldom taken in the . . . United States, and it is perhaps the rarest of our geese."<sup>12</sup> Moreover, these statements are typical of allusions to the species in most ornithological writings.

It was with pleasure therefore that the writer, while on a trip in the interests of the Biological Survey, during the past winter, found the Blue Geese abundant in southern Louisiana, probably just as numerous as in the days of Audubon. The localities visited were the delta of the Mississippi River, specifically, Octave, Main, 27, and other passes entered through Cubit Gap, and Belle Isle and the surrounding region to the west of Vermillion Bay. Not only were Blue Geese found in flocks of thousands, but it was learned also that on account of their great numbers, they do much damage to pastures, especially in the vicinity of Belle Isle and Chenjereau-Tigre.

<sup>1</sup> Cory, C. B., *Auk*, Vol. I, 1884, p. 96.

<sup>2</sup> Scott, W. E. D., *Bull. Nutt. Ornith. Club*, Vol. IV, 1879, p. 226.

<sup>3</sup> Bagg, Egbert, *Auk*, Vol. XI, 1894, p. 163.

<sup>4</sup> Dutcher, William, *ibid.*, Vol. X, 1893, p. 271

<sup>5</sup> Dutcher, William, *ibid.*, Vol. X, 1893, p. 266.

<sup>6</sup> Herrick, N. L., *ibid.*, Vol. XXV, 1908, p. 473.

<sup>7</sup> [To these should be added the type specimen of the species, taken at Great Egg Harbor, New Jersey, in January, 1846 (*cf.* Lawrence, G. N., *Ann. Lyc. N. H. N. Y.*, IV, 1846, p. 171, pl. xii), and two others taken later the same winter. There are also several later records for New Jersey in addition to those given above (*cf.* Stone, *Birds of New Jersey*, 1908 (1909), p. 96).—Ed.]

<sup>8</sup> *Orn. Biogr.*, V, 1838, p. 562.

<sup>9</sup> *Proc. Louisiana Soc. Nat.*, 1900, p. 90.

<sup>10</sup> *Auk*, XIV, 1897, p. 287.

<sup>11</sup> *Bull.* 26, Biological Survey, 1906, p. 68.

<sup>12</sup> *The Waterfowl Family*, 1903, p. 227.